

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 15, and 16 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-19 remain at issue in the above-identified application.

#### **I. Objection To Drawings**

The Examiner objected to the drawings, indicating that Figures 22-24 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), enclosed is a copy of Figures 22-24 with red ink markings showing proposed changes thereto for which approval of the Examiner is requested. The proposed changes are to correct the drawing and do not constitute new matter. In particular, Figure 22-24 have been amended to include a "Prior Art" legend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

#### **II. Objection To Specification**

The Examiner objected to the disclosures because "Aa, "Ab, Ac" on page 8, line 18, should be  $\Delta a$ ,  $\Delta b$  and  $\Delta c$  in accordance with figure 2A. In response, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have also made similar amendments throughout the specification, as well as additional amendments to minor typographical errors in the specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

#### **III. Objection To Claims**

Claims 5 and 7 were objected to because in claim 5, line 2, "dispose" should be "disposed" and claim 7 should depend directly from claim 1 in the same manner that claim 18

(which is equivalent to claim 7) depends directly from the independent claim 9. In response, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 7 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

**IV. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to clarify that the position of fusion is adjusted by moving at least one of the first image or the second image. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**V. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-4 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Imsand (U.S. Patent No. 4,647,965 A) and Sundahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,215 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method comprising adjusting a position of fusion of an object designated in a first image and a second image by moving at least one of the first image or the second image to generate a stereoscopic image. The first image is picked up with a pickup apparatus in a predetermined first state, and the second image is picked up with the pickup apparatus in a second state different from the first state.

Claim 9, as amended, is directed to a stereoscopic-image generating apparatus comprising image moving means for adjusting a position of fusion of an object designated in a first image and a second image by moving at least one of the first image or the second image to

generate a stereoscopic image. The first image is picked up with a pickup apparatus in a predetermined first state, and the second image is picked up with the pickup apparatus in a second state different from the first state.

Imsand discloses a method and apparatus that utilize stereoscopically related pictures by shifting corresponding object images in one or both of the pictures to positions that more nearly coincide when stereoscopically viewed. (See Abstract). In particular, the left camera object image will be positioned to the right with respect to its corresponding right camera object image. (See col. 6, lines 20-22.) The closer the object to the camera, the more the image is displaced to the right with respect to the corresponding right camera object image. (See col. 6, lines 22-25.) Thus, in Imsand, the position of fusion of an object designated in a first image and a second image is not adjusted by moving at least one of the first image or the second image. Rather, various objects within an image are repositioned. Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner's statement, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a single image pickup apparatus as taught by Sundahl et al. in place of the two cameras of Imsand to derive claims 1 and 9. Dependent claims 2-8 and 10-19 are also allowable over Imsand and Sundahl et al. by virtue of their respective dependencies on Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

*Images moved*

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Imsand (U.S. Patent No. 4,647,965 A) and Sundahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,215 A) as applied to claim 10, and further in view of Tabata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,456 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Imsand and Sundahl et al. to derive claim 9. Thus, it would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tabata with the teachings of Imsand and Sundahl et al., to derive claim 11, which ultimately depends from claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Imsand (U.S. Patent No. 4,647,965 A) and Pritchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,157,484 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Imsand neither discloses nor suggests adjusting the position of fusion of an object designated in a first image and a second image by moving at least one of the first image or the second image, as required by claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner's statement, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a single image pickup apparatus as taught by Pritchard et al., in place of the two cameras of Imsand, to derive claims 1 and 9. Dependent claims 5-6 and 16-17 are also allowable over Imsand and Pritchard et al. by virtue of their respective dependencies on Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Imsand (U.S. Patent No. 4,647,965 A) and Lia (U.S. Patent No. 5,222,477 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Imsand neither discloses nor suggests adjusting the position of fusion of an object designated in a first image and a second image by moving at least one of the

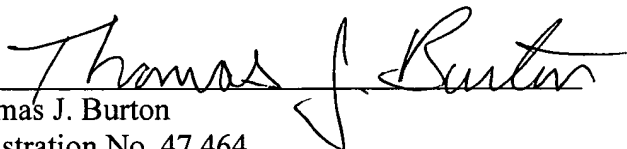
first image or the second image, as required by claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner's statement, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a single image pickup apparatus as taught by Lia, in place of the two cameras of Imsand, to derive claims 1 and 9. Dependent claims 7-8 and 18-19 are also allowable over Imsand and Lia by virtue of their respective dependencies on Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**VI. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
Thomas J. Burton  
Registration No. 47,464  
SONNENSCHNEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000